

CPYRGHT

Another Coolidge Phony

To quote our esteemed contemporary, the New York Herald Tribune: "Only a few know it was Allen Dulles, head of the CIA who was the State Department duty officer the night in 1923 when the phone call came from San Francisco reporting President Harding was dead. Young Dulles got Secretary of State Charles Evans Hughes out of bed. Mr. Hughes notified Vice President Coolidge at Northampton, Mass., and told the Vice President a special train would pick him up. 'Don't bother, I'll take an upper,' Mr. Coolidge replied."

Only a few may know THAT, including Allen Dulles, but a considerable number of people know that Vice President Coolidge was at Plymouth, N. H., on Aug. 2, 1923, when Harding died and that he was sworn in at 2:47 a. m. by his father in the Coolidge homestead by lamplight. And it happens that the news wires were much faster than the State Department, for they had already notified Coolidge of Harding's death before Secretary Hughes had even brushed his whiskers. As for saying, 'Don't bother, I'll take an upper,' we wonder if Coolidge, who traveled with his wife to Washington to take up residence in the White House, had gallantly given his wife the lower.

And, while we are on the subject of Coolidge and all the phony stories told about him, we must point out that he was one President who had the modesty and decency not to start erecting a memorial library or repository for his State papers during his lifetime. He slumbers in a hillside cemetery in Vermont—the decent slumber of a decent man, who was President of the United States in the last period of peace, tranquillity and true prosperity the nation has known.